

# South Dakota National Guard

## Public Affairs Office

Phone: 605-737-6721 Email: [ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil)

Web: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil>

[www.facebook.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard](https://www.facebook.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard)

[www.flickr.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard](https://www.flickr.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard)

[https://twitter.com/SD\\_Guard](https://twitter.com/SD_Guard)



June 19, 2015

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Bosslift exposes employers to military life**

RAPID CITY, S.D. – About 20 employers from across South Dakota received an inside look at military life at the South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's "Bosslift," during the 31st Golden Coyote training exercise, June 10-11.

Nominated for the event by their military employees, the employers experienced weapons training, flight simulators, combat scenarios, early mornings and military meals in two fast-paced days at Camp Rapid and Ellsworth Air Force Base.

"The intent of the Bosslift program is to bring service member's civilian supervisors who are here at Golden Coyote so they can really see what their employees are doing when they go away for annual training," said Ron Mielke, state chair for SD-ESGR.

The days included a weapons simulator, giving the employers a taste of what it's like to fire an M-4 rifle and 50 cal. machine gun and be part of a mounted patrol. They also saw troops practicing how to react to enemy contact and provide first aid on the battlefield.

"It is amazing how realistic this training can be and how much training goes on at this exercise," said Tom Kueter, of Home Federal Bank.

All of the events highlighted the different military positions Guard members and Reservists lead when they leave the workplace for military duty.

"I came into this not knowing a lot about the National Guard or the Air Force," said Karen Sundermann, a software engineer manager at Fiserv. "The experiences have been a great learning opportunity for me."

Sundermann was nominated for the Bosslift experience by her employee, Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Zuraff, of the 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment, Regional Training Institute.

"I've been told they learn leadership and teamwork skills in the National Guard," said Sundermann. "Jeremiah has been with us only a few months, and I already see those qualities in him. It's a true testament for us and I've seen it."

Soldiers not only bring leadership skills to the workplace but also military jargon.

"David is a model Soldier, and when he works for us he brings in some military vernacular into our day-to-day operations," said Jared Hoffer, of Mitchell Technical Institute, who employs Sgt. David Koupal, of the 842nd Engineer Company. "So I find myself doing some 'roger that's!'"

Employers also got in the cockpit of a B1 Bomber flight simulator and saw EOD, or explosive ordnance disposal, equipment to include robots and protective suits at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

ESGR has hosted Bosslifts in a variety of locations, usually at military bases where employer's service members are mobilizing for deployment. However, Golden Coyote offers civilian employers a more extensive list of training experiences, due to the large number of service members who attend every year.

"It's neat to see all the training events," said Corey Thelen, of Davison County Implement. "It helps us as an employer understand the dual life of some of our employees and what they go through."

-30-

High-resolution photos are available at [www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard](http://www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard)



**150611-Z-ZZ999-231:** Evan Grosz, of Rapid City Regional Health, takes aim behind a 240B machine gun training simulator during the South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Bosslift, June 11, 2015, at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D. The Bosslift offers employers from across South Dakota the opportunity to experience military training their employees receive during weekend drills and their two-week annual training. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pvt. Quant/Released)



**150611-Z-LN227-291:** South Dakota employers receive instruction on a weapons training simulator during the South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Bosslift, June 11, 2015, at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D. The Bosslift offers employers from across South Dakota the opportunity to experience military training their employees receive during weekend drills and their two-week annual training. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pvt. Quant/Released)



**150611-Z-ZZ999-147:** Jeffrey Bertsch, of Country Drug, reads the description of a "Meal-Ready-To-Eat" during the South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Bosslift, June 11, 2015, at West Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D. The Bosslift offers employers from across South Dakota the opportunity to experience military training their employees receive during weekend drills and their two-week annual training. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pvt. Quant/Released)



**150611-Z-ZZ999-115:** Casey Gerlach, of Casey Peterson and Associates, tries on an explosive ordnance disposal, or EOD, suite during the South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Bosslift, June 11, 2015, at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. The Bosslift offers employers from across South Dakota the opportunity to experience military training their employees receive during weekend drills and their two-week annual training. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Lona Christensen/Released)



**150611-Z-ZZ999-112:** South Dakota employers pose for a group photo during the South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Bosslift, June 12, 2015, at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D. The Bosslift offers employers from across South Dakota the opportunity to experience military training their employees receive during weekend drills and their two-week annual training. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pvt. Quant/Released)